Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claim(s) 4, 5, 10 and 11. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Previously presented) A method for supporting wireless communications, the method comprising the steps of:

allocating a first channel to support message transmissions from a base station to multiple field units;

allocating a second channel to support message transmissions from the field units to the base station;

assigning time slots in the first and second channel for message transmissions between the base station and field units; and

maintaining synchronization between a selected one of the field units and the base station by analyzing a message received in a time slot and adjusting timing of the selected one field unit by transmitting a feedback message to the selected field unit.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

partitioning the first channel into active and standby time slots, wherein active time slots correspond with field units transmitting a data payload on a reverse link traffic channel.

3. (Original) A method as in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

detecting a request by a field unit to transmit a data payload from the field unit to the base station;

assigning the requesting field unit an active slot in the first channel; and allocating traffic channels to support a data transfer between the requesting field unit and the base station.

- 4. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 3 further comprising the step of: reassigning [[a]] the field unit a standby time slot in the first channel after completion of the data transfer.
- 5. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 3 further comprising the step of:

 maintaining synchronization between [[a]] the field unit and the base station by
 analyzing at least one message received on a traffic channel and adjusting timing of the field unit
 based upon a feedback message to the field unit to advance or retard timing.
- 6. (Original) A method as in claim 5 wherein the base station analyzes timing of a marker in the traffic channel to maintain synchronization.
- 7. (Original) A method as in claim 6 wherein the marker in a traffic channel is a string of pilot symbols.
- 8. (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of: dividing the first and second channels into a predetermined number of time slots to support periodic communications between the base station and each of multiple field units.
- 9. (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

 detecting a request by a field unit to establish a link with the base station;

 analyzing the request to determine an initial timing adjustment to be made at the field unit for synchronization; and

transmitting timing adjustment information to the field unit for synchronizing the field unit with the base station.

10. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the timing adjustment information is transmitted to [[a]] the field unit over a paging channel.

- 11. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the timing adjustment information is a multi-bit value transmitted to [[a]] the field unit notifying the requesting field unit of an amount to advance or retard timing.
- 12. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein field units are notified of time slot assignments based upon messages over a forward link paging channel.
- 13. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the base station analyzes a field unit message and determines whether to advance or retard timing of the field unit.
- 14. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein time slots are assigned in the first and second channel based on a predetermined offset.
- 15. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein a single bit in a time slot indicates whether a corresponding field unit should advance or retard timing.
- 16. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein message transmissions on the first channel are encoded using BCH.
- 17. (Original) A method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 assigning short PN codes for use by a field unit, a short PN code being transmitted
 by the field unit in an assigned time slot to provide an indication to the base station.
- 18. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein an assigned short PN code indicates a request by the field unit to transmit a data payload to the base station.
- 19. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein an assigned short PN code indicates a request by the field unit to remain in a standby mode.

20. (Original) A method for synchronizing wireless communications between a base station and a field unit, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning time slots of a forward link channel to each of a plurality of field units in which a base station transmits messages, each field unit determining messages directed to the field unit based upon receipt of a message in a particular time slot;

assigning time slots in a reverse link channel in which the field units transmit messages to the base station, the base station identifying from which field unit transmitted a message based upon reception in a particular time slot;

adjusting message transmissions from each field unit such that messages transmitted from the plurality of field units arrive at the base station in a corresponding time slot of the reverse link channel.

- 21. (Original) A method as in claim 20 further comprising the step of:
- analyzing messages received by field units and transmitting a message on the forward link to a corresponding field unit to adjust timing on the reverse link channel.
- 22. (Original) A method as in claim 21, wherein the message to adjust timing in the reverse link channel for a particular field unit includes an indication whether to advance or retard timing.
- 23. (Original) A method as in claim 22, wherein the indication of whether to advance or retard timing is based on a single bit from the base station indicating to advance or retard timing a first predefined amount.
- 24. (Original) A method as in claim 23, wherein timing is advanced or retarded based on a second predefined time if the single bit is a same state for a specified number of time periods in a row, the second predefined time greater than the first predefined time.
- 25. (Previously presented) A method for supporting wireless communications between a base station and a plurality of field units, the method comprising the steps of:

allocating a first channel to support message transmissions from the base station to the field units;

allocating a second channel to support message transmissions from the field units to the base station;

assigning time slots in the first and second channel for message transmissions between the base station and each field unit; and

assigning a set of codes for use by a field unit, each code corresponding to a message that is transmitted in a time slot on the second channel, a code being transmitted by the field unit on the second channel to provide an indication to the base station.

- 26. (Original) A method as in claim 25, wherein the set of codes is unique to each field unit.
- 27. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 25, wherein the set of codes is a set of short PN codes.
- 28. (Cancelled).
- 29. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 25, wherein a code of the set of codes indicates a request by the field unit to be allocated reverse traffic channels for transmitting a data payload to the base station.